

3 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Nicosia Bureau--November 1981

I. GENERAL

Nicosia Bureau wordage remained high in November, marked in substance by various unexpectedly curtailed coverage events. Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the pro-Israel "Free Lebanon" border strip area, resigned on 6 November in a radio address, only to formally rescind his resignation in another radio address on 8 November amid wailing and moaning by adherents--most notably including his mother. The Arab League summit opened in Fes, Morocco, on 22 November, only to close on 23 November for lack of sufficient head of state representation and lack of agreement on the agenda beyond the expression of purely moral support for Lebanon against Israel. The As-Sadat assassination trial opened in Egypt on 16 November, only to be postponed immediately, with Western news agencies reporting the defendants gracing the courtroom with somewhat less than repentant behavior. During the month, UN Secretary General Waldheim personally interjected a discussion paper into the Cypriot intercommunal talks situation, which appeared designed to move the talks off dead center but which has not been universally welcomed, with many of the discussions centering on deciding whether the document is an "evaluation," a "plan," "ideas," or an "ultimatum," rather than to its substance.

Other topics receiving voluminous attention during the month have included regional reaction to the joint U.S.-Egyptian "Bright Star" military exercises and various changes wrought in Greek attitudes toward the United States and the European Community following the Socialist Party victory in the October Parliamentary elections.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. In the wake of the As-Sadat assassination, the bureau renewed efforts to provide coverage of Egyptian television. New antennas and amplifiers were purchased and installed, and Chief Monitor [redacted] STAT conducted an initial survey. Unfortunately, cold weather set in shortly after the equipment was in place. However, reception during the few warm days available suggested that warm weather monitoring of Cairo television from Nicosia is possible, and TV reception of the entire region from Nicosia will be surveyed in the spring.

2. Starting on 11 November, the bureau experienced problems with receiving the Paris AFP English Far East beam between 1800 and 1930 GMT. We almost immediately discovered that AFP was being blocked out during this period by KCNA's Africa transmission. We initially combated the problem by switching to AFP's Africa beam during its last hour of transmission 1800-1900 GMT, and on 28 November AFP solved the problem itself by switching to a new frequency during the period.

3. At the beginning of the month the winter change in the Athens-Nicosia flight schedules upset our receipt pattern for Athens newspapers which had been received here each day in time for same-day processing. The bureau is currently being forced to process the papers with a 1-day delay 4 days per week.

B. Lateral/Special Services

1. Effective 3 November, the bureau began providing a copy of its outgoing substantive file to the embassy's International Communications Agency office. The previous day's file is hand-delivered to the embassy for forwarding to ICA each morning.

2. On 17 November the American Embassy in Athens requested a text of Greek Premier Papandreou's upcoming speech providing the new government program. The 2-hour speech was monitored late on the night of 22 November and the text was completed and filed in 16 takes on 23 November.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. State reclassifier Helen Meyerson, one of a team of three working on a total reclassification of the Nicosia Embassy, visited the bureau several times during the month to talk with bureau employees and to desk audit selected positions.

B. Senior Arabic Monitor [redacted] resigned effective 28 November STAT and departed for London on 25 November, where he is to be hired to work at PMU.

C. Senior PMU Arabic Monitor [redacted] arrived on 21 November STAT on a PCS transfer to Nicosia Bureau.

D. Regional Engineer [redacted] visited Amman on TDY 16-19 November STAT

IV. VISITS

BBC Monitor David Bowman and wife visited the bureau while on private travel and were given a tour on 12 November.

V. OTHER

Senior Greek Monitor [redacted] put on an exhibit of watercolors STAT and oils showing Greek and Cypriot scenes at the Hilton Hotel 23-30 November.

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The exhibit was opened by the Greek Cypriot interlocutor at the intercommunal talks and was graced with several "big spenders" and some of the most enthusiastic press coverage of the year, including a somewhat rare press release by the UN press office.



STAT

Nicosia Bureau Chief

Attachments:

- A. Operations (including Production and Traffic Reports)